

started married life in a boarding house paying the sum of \$4.00 per week.⁴

The joys and sorrows that have been felt within these walls would fill many volumes if we but knew them all.

We hope you have enjoyed your tour of Arenz House. The furnishings are the property of many generous owners and were provided to give you a glimpse of yesteryear.

FOOTNOTES

- 1) Phillip H. Decker
- 2) Timothy L. Huey
- 3) Frances Arenz Will and Testament Abstract of Title #8252
County of Cass, State of Illinois
- 4) *World Book Encyclopedia* Vol. 12, p. 276, Copyright 1965,
Field Enterprises Educational Corp.

CONSULTANTS

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Laun Service: Donated by Illinois Forest Products,
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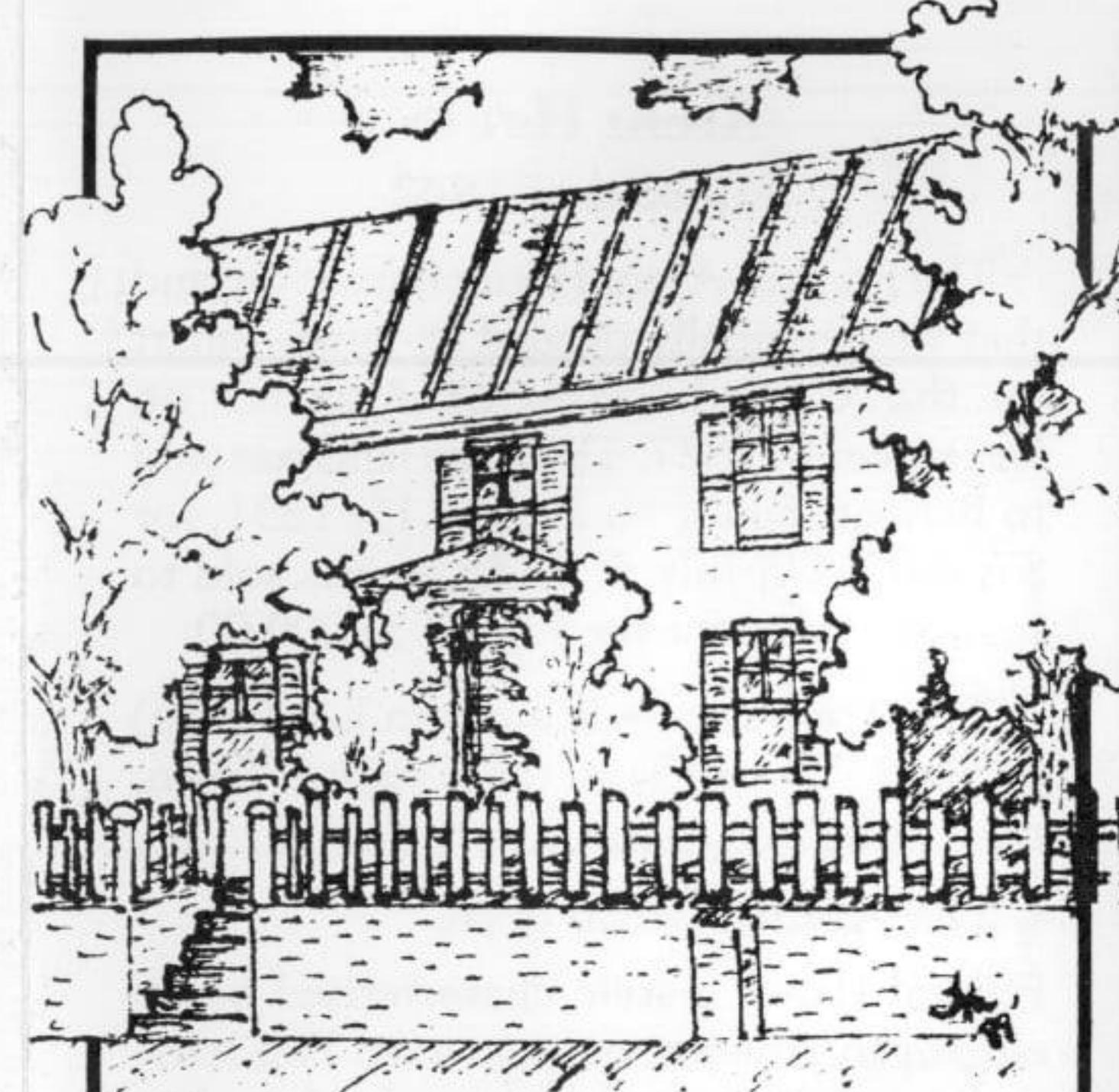
Restoration and Furnishings:

Co-Chairmen - Janette Huey, Arenzville, Illinois

Patricia Roegge, Beardstown, Illinois

Over 30 people gave of their time and energy to make the Arenz House tour possible. To them a tremendous THANK YOU!

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*Francis Arenz House
est. 1842*

*Arenzville
Sesquicentennial*

1839-1989

Arenz House Established 1842

The Frances Arenz House is built on land that was originally deeded to James Smart by the United States of America on December 8, 1827. The same land was sold to Bennett Smart on August 15, 1831, for \$700.00. On July 4, 1832, it was sold to Frances Arenz for the sum of \$1000.00.

The Arenz House is built on Lot Six (6) in Block Three (3) in the Original Town, now Village of Arenzville.

I. The Architectural Style

Federal (late), a style characterized by its elegant and intentional austerity. This is the earliest architectural style to be found in Arenzville (or, for that matter, in most Midwestern cities). It is a style that was brought to the Middle West by pioneers from the East Coast and was especially favored by those from New England. The late Federal style house is most frequently constructed of brick and usually contains two stories.

The house has been turned so that its long side faces the street. The facade of the original house was absolutely symmetrical. To achieve this effect, the number of openings across the facade was uneven so that the main entrance could be centered in the long side of the house. The roof of the original house is a relatively low-pitched gable roof, supported by an unadorned frieze.

The windows are openings cut into the fabric of the structure and are left relatively

plain, although there are obvious lintels as well as sills, a feature not always seen in this style. Each sash was probably divided into four lights (panes) as some still are.

Originally, the house was a two-story structure only at the front. The single story at the back would probably have been covered by a simple shed roof.

About 1920, a second story was added to the northeast corner of the house. In addition, a two-story addition was made along the entire south side. This would have been built to accommodate the modern plumbing. Light fixtures and the ornate woodwork were added at this time.

The simple Greek Revival style portico is a copy of the original as seen in a picture of the house dated 1845. The double-leaved front doors are of Italianate design.¹

II. Construction

The house rests on brick form footings. The 3x8 floor joists are hand hewn from native oak and walnut. The original structure has two-brick-deep walls. The clear Northern white pine rafters are held by square-cut nails and the sheathing is full 1x10's of clear Northern white pine. Note the north window in the smoke house building. This window is probably original and is put together with wooden pegs.²

III. Owners

The original house was built in 1842 and was the home of Frances and Louisa Arenz and their nine children, Henrietta, Louisa, Frances, Mary Ann, Oscar, Susan, Albert,

Laura and Henry. Many of the streets in Arenzville are named for their children.

The will of Frances Arenz was filed for probate in May of 1856. This will was quite lengthy and very specific as to the use of his assets in regard to the education of his children and their well being. He stated in his will "I desire and direct that my wife shall have a house with necessary furniture, free of rent, and a sum of eight dollars per month, paid to her and secured during her lifetime. Should my wife Louisa not require the use of a home and necessary furniture, I desire that in lieu of same, her monthly allowance be increased to fifteen dollars for her support."³

Louisa Arenz, widow of Frances Arenz, sold the house and property to Herman Engelbach and his wife Elizabeth, February 18, 1871, for the consideration of \$2,475.00. Herman and Elizabeth were the parents of six children: George, Christina, Henry, Herman, Frederich and William.

Herman Engelbach died December 16, 1880, and Elizabeth September, 1912. The property was held in the Engelbach family until it was sold to Timothy L. and Janette L. Huey in 1981. They are the current owners.

It would be impossible to relate in a few words the history this house has seen in 147 years. For instance, to illustrate its relative place in the time line of history, in 1842, the year Arenz House was built, a young lawyer by the name of Abraham Lincoln married a Kentucky girl named Mary Todd in Springfield, Illinois. They